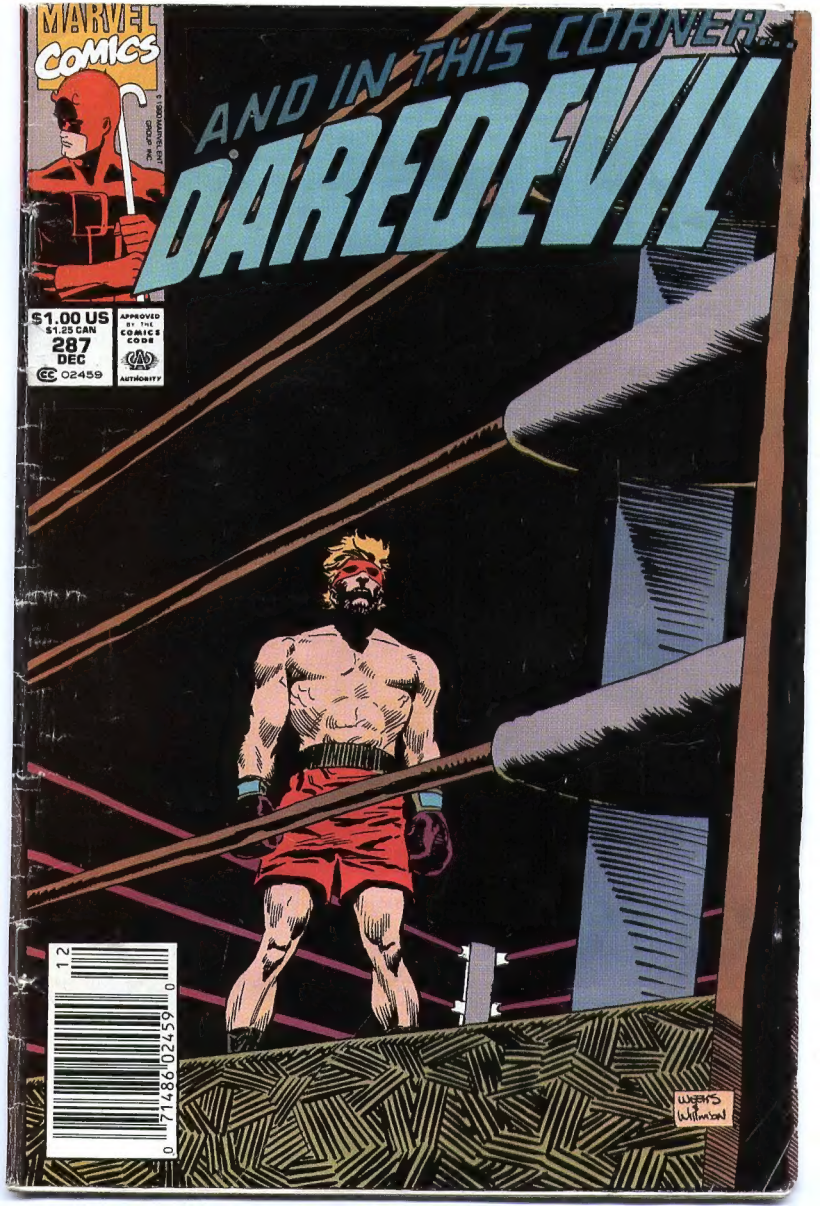
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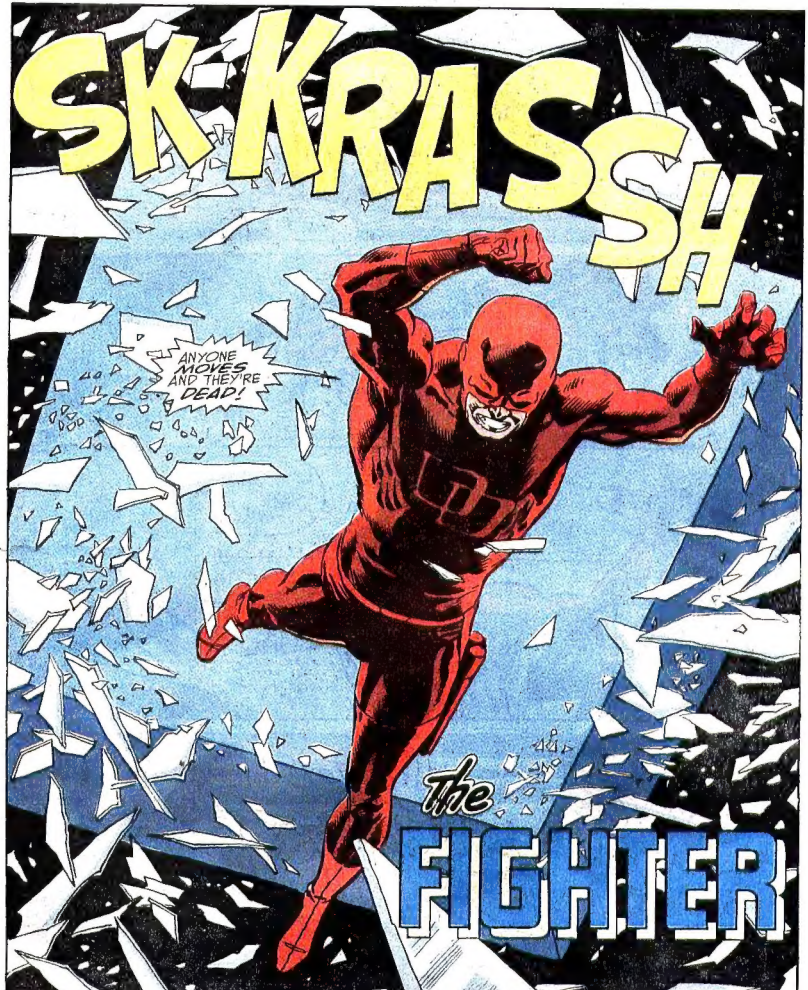
Williamson

A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG **MATT MURDOCK** *WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .* **DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!**



ANN NOCENTI WRITER
LEE WEEKS PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON INKS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
MAX SCHEELE COLORS
RALPH MACCHIO TRAINER
TOM DeFALCO CUT-MAN

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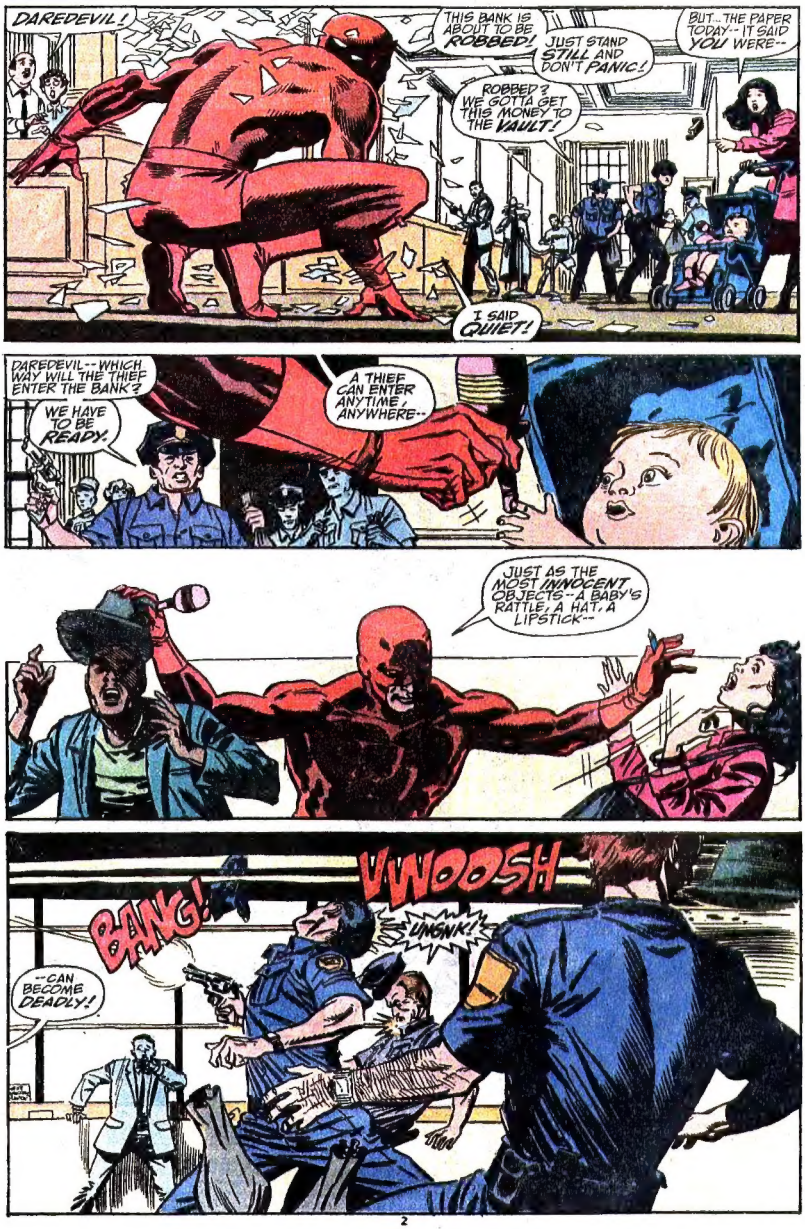
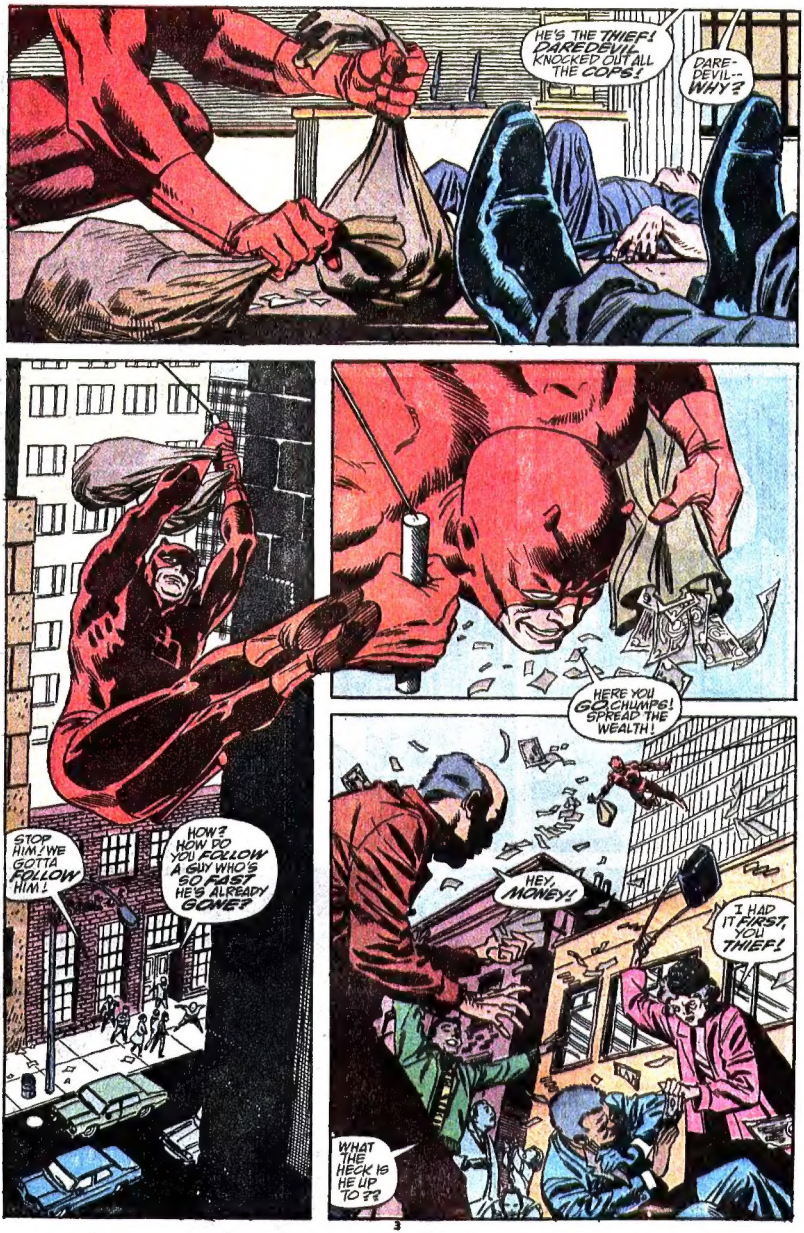
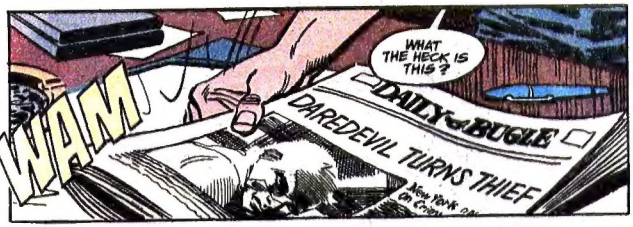
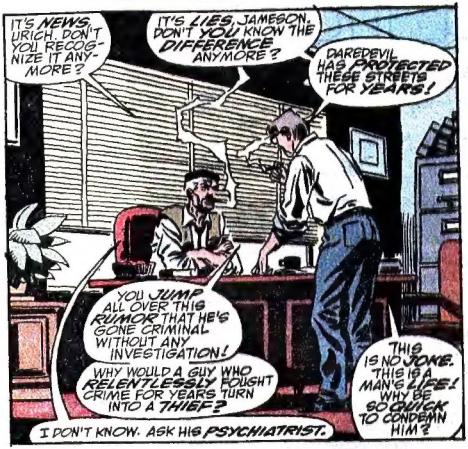

DAREDEVIL!
THIS BANK IS ABOUT TO BE ROBBED!
JUST STAND STILL AND DON'T PANIC!
BUT...THE PAPER TODAY--IT SAID YOU WERE--
ROBBED? WE GOTTA GET THIS MONEY TO THE VAULT!
I SAID QUIET!
DAREDEVIL--WHICH WAY WILL THE THIEF ENTER THE BANK?
WE HAVE TO BE READY.
A THIEF CAN ENTER ANYTIME, ANYWHERE--
JUST AS THE MOST INNOCENT OBJECTS--A BABY'S RATTLE, A HAT, A LIPSTICK--
VWOOSH
BANG!
UNGNK!
--CAN BECOME DEADLY!


HE'S THE THIEF! DAREDEVIL KNOCKED OUT ALL THE COPS!
DARE-DEVIL-- WHY?
HERE YOU GO CHUMPS! SPREAD THE WEALTH!
HEY, MONEY!
I HAD IT FIRST, YOU THIEF!
WHAT THE HECK IS HE UP TO??
STOP HIM! WE GOTTA FOLLOW HIM!
HOW? HOW DO YOU FOLLOW A GUY WHO'S SO FAST HE'S ALREADY GONE?

HUMMM?
WAKE UP, BABY.
DADDY BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT.
HA HA HA HA HA!
CRIPES. WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THIS MONEY?
I'M NEW YORK'S NEW ROBIN HOOD. I TAKE FROM THE RICH AND GIVE TO THE POOR.
HA HA HA HA HA!
TIME TO WAKE UP, DEAR.
DAREDEVIL, COME ON... OUCH! YOU'RE HURTING ME! HEY, AT LEAST TAKE OFF THAT MASK!
NO WAY.
C'MON--THIS ISN'T FUNNY! YOU'RE SICK!
NO.
I'M A HERO.
I'M DAREDEVIL. I'M A BIG HERO.


WAM
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
DAILY BUGLE
DAREDEVIL TURNS THIEF

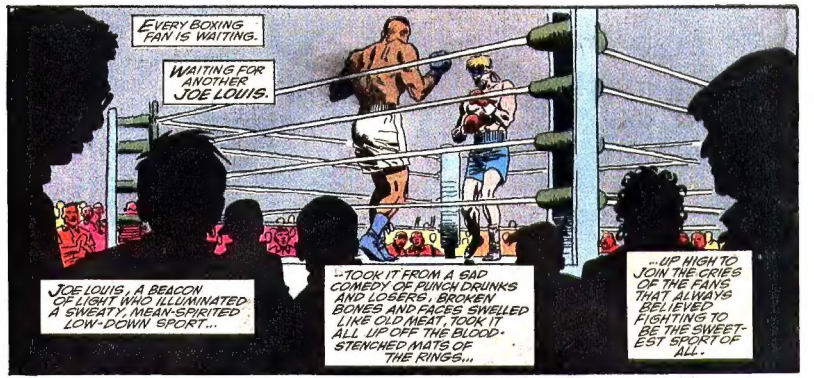

IT'S NEWS, URICH. DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE IT ANYMORE?
IT'S LIES, JAMESON. DON'T YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE ANYMORE?
DAREDEVIL HAS PROTECTED THESE STREETS FOR YEARS!
YOU JUMP ALL OVER THIS RUMOR THAT HE'S GONE CRIMINAL WITHOUT ANY INVESTIGATION!
WHY WOULD A GUY WHO RELENTLESSLY FOUGHT CRIME FOR YEARS TURN INTO A THIEF?
I DON'T KNOW. ASK HIS PSYCHIATRIST.
THIS IS NO JOKE. THIS IS A MAN'S LIFE! WHY BE SO QUICK TO CONDEMN HIM?

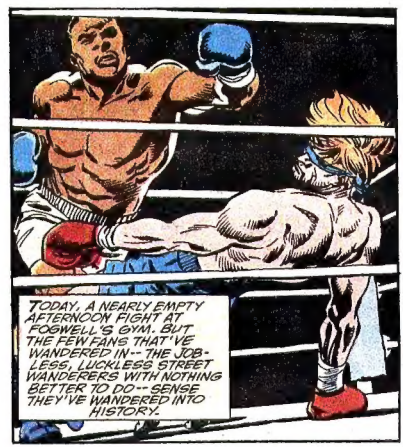
BECAUSE I HATE SUPER HEROES!

BUT, YOU'RE THE FIRST TO USE THEM TO SELL NEWSPAPERS!

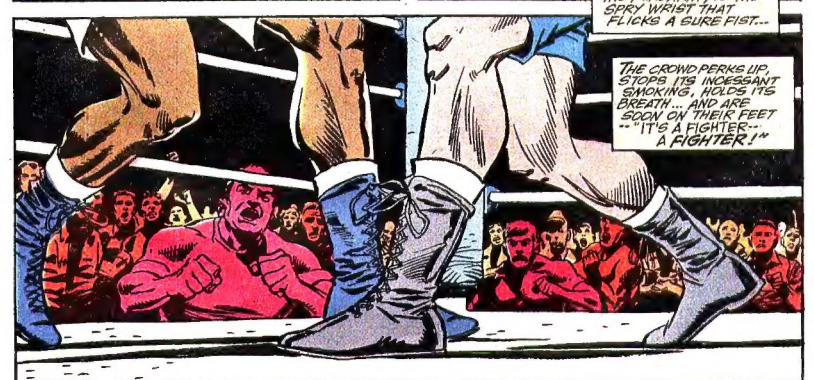
LOOK, LET ME DO AN EDITORIAL, A PIECE ON DAREDEVIL TO COUNTER THE DAMAGE THIS HEADLINE DOES.
WITH WHAT EVIDENCE? WHAT FACTS? WHAT PROOF?
JONAH JAMESON
PUBLISHER

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME ON THIS ONE, JONAH. I CAN SMELL OUT A LIE LIKE A BLOODHOUND TO BLOOD; AND THIS HEADLINE IS A LIE!


EVERY BOXING FAN IS WAITING.
WAITING FOR ANOTHER JOE LOUIS.
JOE LOUIS, A BEACON OF LIGHT WHO ILLUMINATED A SWEATY, MEAN-SPIRITED LOW-DOWN SPORT...
...TOOK IT FROM A SAD COMEDY OF PUNCH DRUNKS AND LOSERS, BROKEN BONES AND FACES SWELLED LIKE OLD MEAT, TOOK IT ALL UP OFF THE BLOOD-STENCHED MATS OF THE RINGS...
...UP HIGH TO JOIN THE CRIES OF THE FANS THAT ALWAYS BELIEVED FIGHTING TO BE THE SWEETEST SPORT OF ALL.

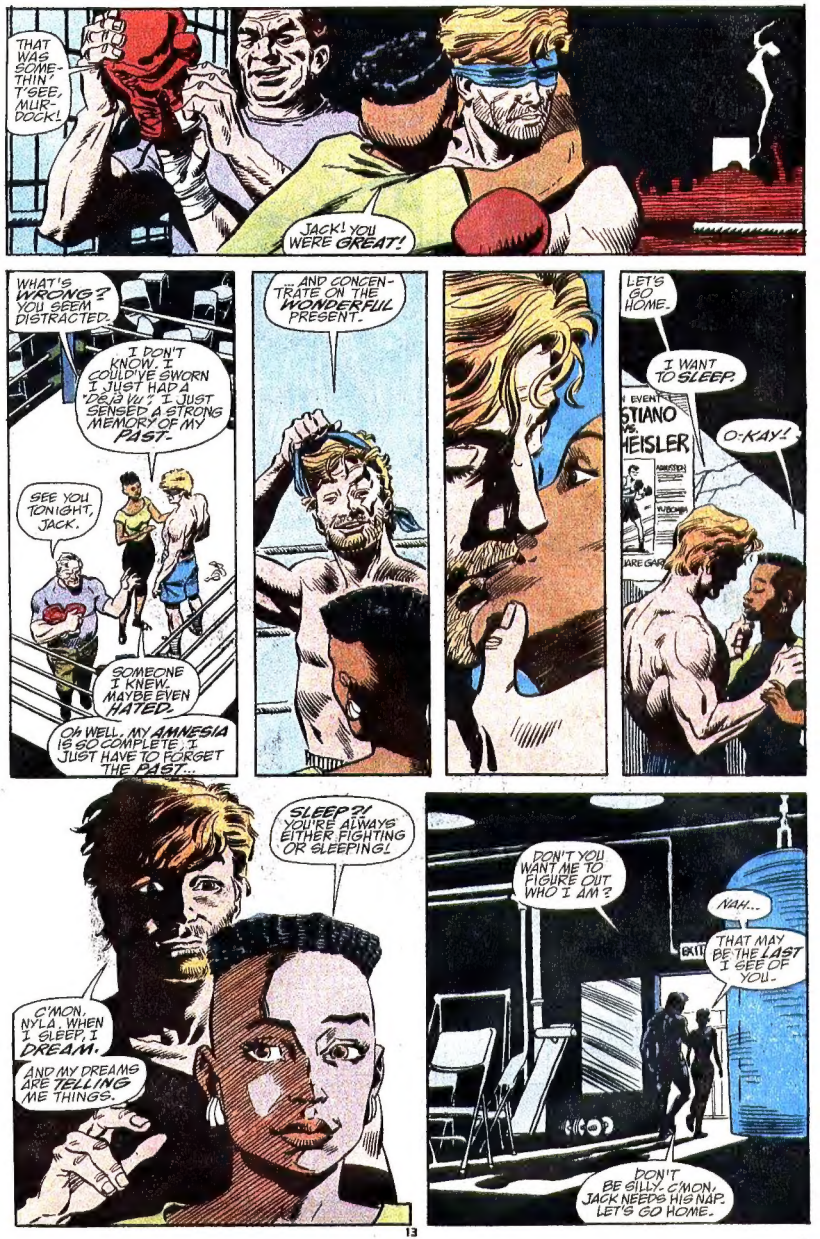

TODAY, A NEARLY EMPTY AFTERNOON FIGHT AT FOSWELL'S GYM. BUT THE FEW FANS THAT'VE WANDERED IN -- THE JOBLESS, LUCKLESS STREET WANDERERS WITH NOTHING BETTER TO DO -- SENSE THEY'VE WANDERED INTO HISTORY.

THEY RECOGNIZE HISTORY IN A MAN'S ARM- A CERTAIN POWER-ROLL OF A SHOULDER SOCKET INTO A PISTON HOOK OF THE FOREARM, TO THE SPRY WRIST THAT FLICKS A SURE FIST...

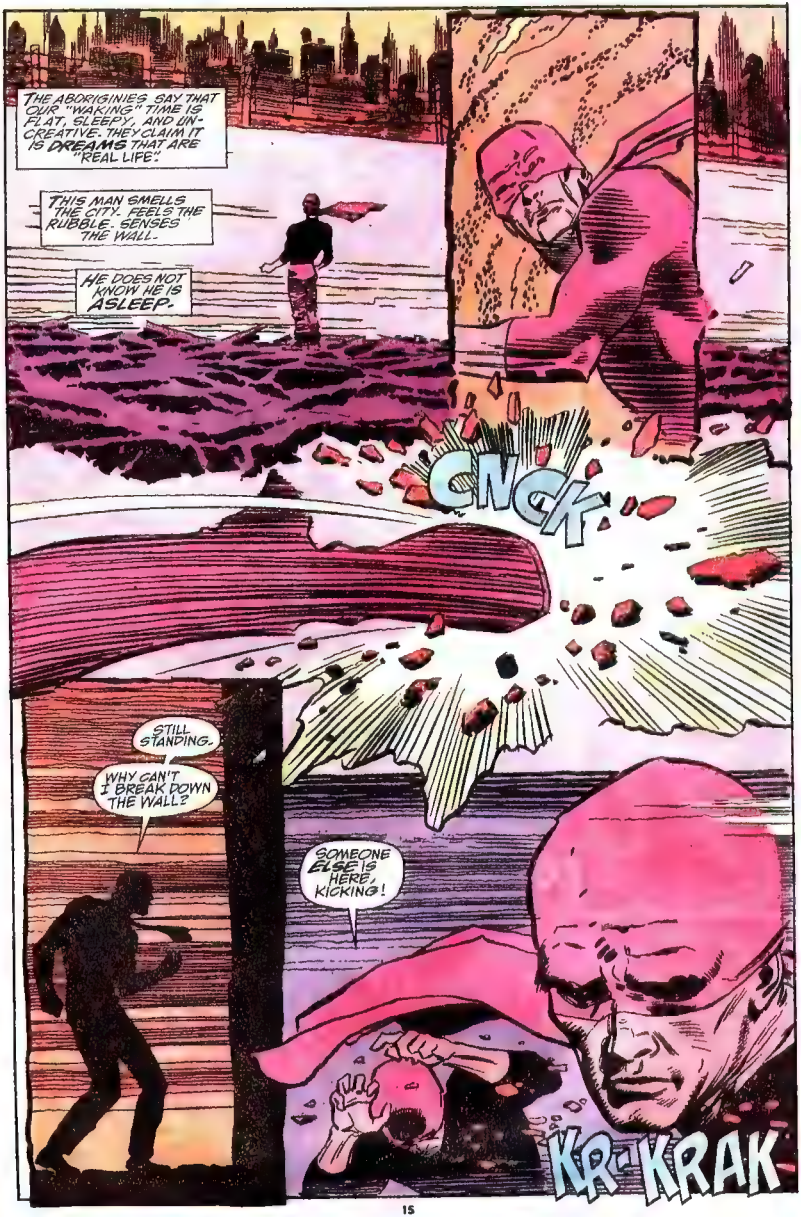

THE CROWD PERKS UP, STOPS ITS INCESSANT SMOKING, HOLDS ITS BREATH... AND ARE SOON ON THEIR FEET -- "IT'S A FIGHTER-- A FIGHTER!"

THAT LEFT, CHARLIE -- DID YOU SEE HIS LEFT?
I SEE IT, I SEE IT!
STREET STYLE--
WOMP
CKRK
IT'S OVER!
STREET STYLE, WITH A REFINED ANGER...
FINISH HIM!
WATOMB
A NIMBLENESS, A STYLE, A KARATE ARM, A JUDO STANCE, AN AIKIDO SKILL ... IT'S HIM.
THE CROWD IS ON ITS FEET. THEY'VE BEEN HERE. THEY'VE SEEN IT, THEY'LL BE TALKING ABOUT THIS FIGHT FOR YEARS... A FIGHTER!

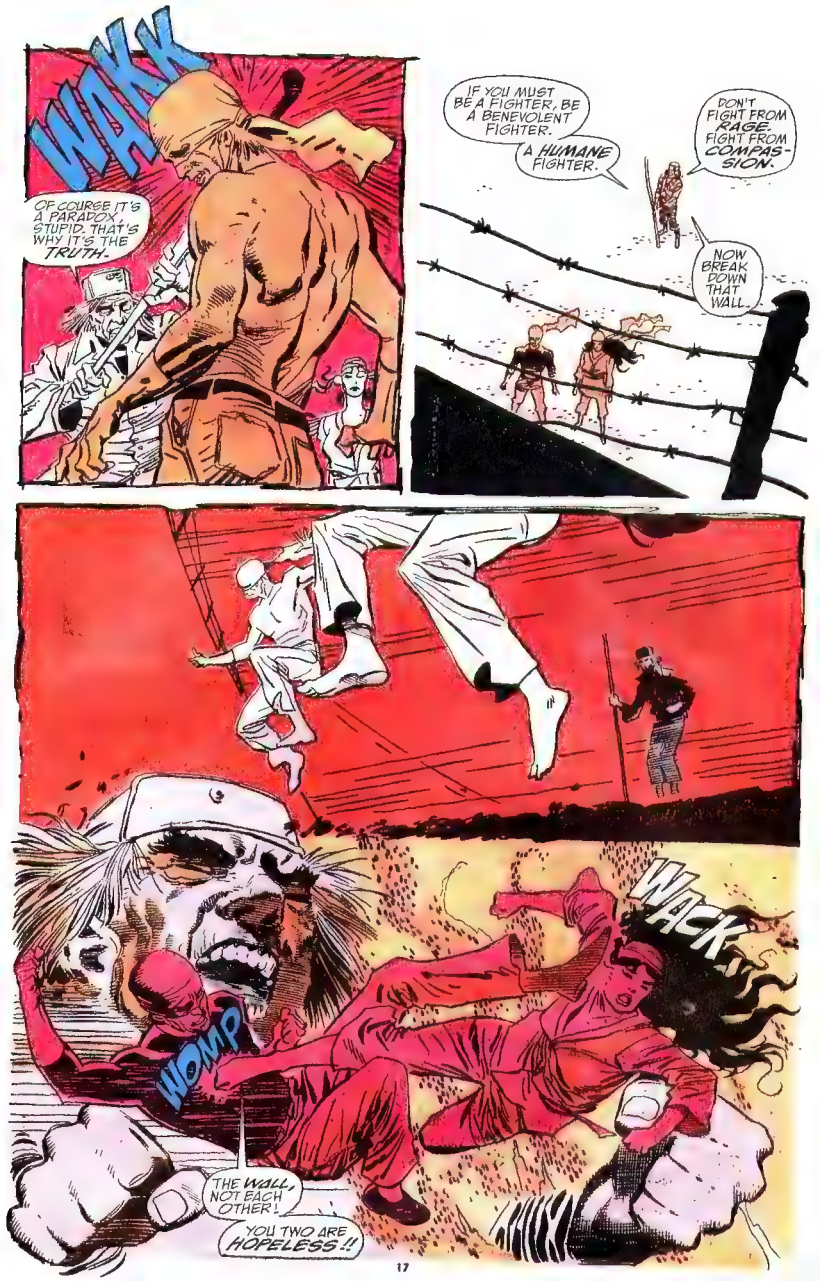
THE WINNER!
JACK MURDOCK!
STILL UN-DEFEATED!
ONE MAN, A MAN WHO OTHERS CALL KINGPIN, REMAINS UNRUFFLED...
IT'S HIM. MATT MURDOCK. DAREDEVIL.
OUT OF HIS COSTUME AND USING HIS DEAD FATHER'S NAME, TAKING UP HIS FATHER'S SPORT.
HE'S BACK. BUT WHAT IS HE ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMPLISH?
THAT'S IT, DAREDEVIL. LOOK MY WAY.
I'M ON TO YOU.


THAT WAS SOME-THIN' T'SEE, MUR-DOCK!
JACK! YOU WERE GREAT!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM DISTRACTED.
I DON'T KNOW. I COULD'VE SWORN I JUST HAD A "DEJA VU." I JUST SENSED A STRONG MEMORY OF MY PAST.
SEE YOU TONIGHT, JACK.
SOMEONE I KNEW. MAYBE EVEN HATED.
OH WELL. MY AMNESIA IS SO COMPLETE, I JUST HAVE TO FORGET THE PAST...
...AND CONCEN-TRATE ON THE WONDERFUL PRESENT.
LET'S GO HOME.
I WANT TO SLEEP.
O-KAY!
SLEEP?! YOU'RE ALWAYS EITHER FIGHTING OR SLEEPING!
C'MON, NYLA. WHEN I SLEEP, I DREAM.
AND MY DREAMS ARE TELLING ME THINGS.
DON'T YOU WANT ME TO FIGURE OUT WHO I AM?
NAH...
EXIT
THAT MAY BE THE LAST I SEE OF YOU.
DON'T BE SILLY. C'MON, JACK NEEDS HIS NAP. LET'S GO HOME.

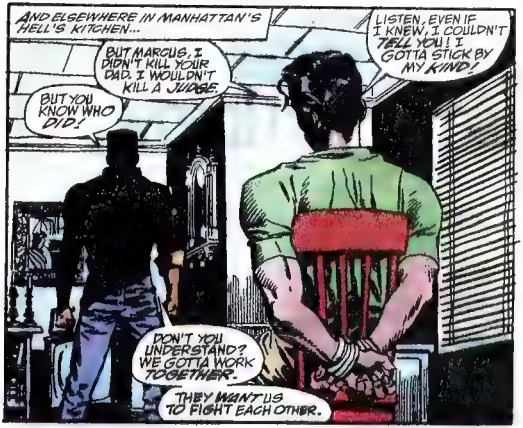
WHY SO SURPRISED?
ISN'T IT JUST LIKE A GUY WHO PARADES AROUND CALLING HIMSELF A HERO.
THE DAREDEVIL IS ONE SICK PUPPY.
DAILY BUGLE
BLACK JUDGE MURDER
FOUND YESTERDAY BY SON
SO, UH... YOU WERE HIS GIRLFRIEND FOR A COUPLE DAYS, AN' YOU CAN SAY THIS FOR SURE.
IT DOESN'T TAKE A WOMAN LONG TO KNOW ALL SHE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT A MAN.
THIS WHOLE TRIP HE'S ON -- IT'S LIKE SOME CAMPAIGN FOR SAINTHOOD.
HE CALLS HIMSELF A MODERN ROBIN HOOD, A MORAL THIEF STEALING TO REDISTRIBUTE WEALTH.
BUT HE'S VIOLENT... SICK... AND WELL....
...HE'S NOT MUCH OF A MAN-
¡GULP!
UH-- OH. I SEE.
JAMESON! C'MERE A SECOND.
LISTEN, CHIEF, YOU BETTER HOLD THE FRONT PAGE.
I THINK WE GOT A NEW HEADLINE.

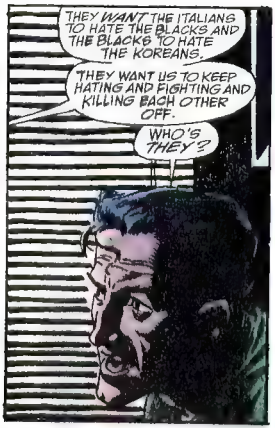

THE ABORIGINIES SAY THAT OUR "WAKING" TIME IS FLAT, SLEEPY, AND UN-CREATIVE. THEY CLAIM IT IS DREAMS THAT ARE "REAL LIFE".
THIS MAN SMELLS THE CITY. FEELS THE RUBBLE. SENSES THE WALL.
HE DOES NOT KNOW HE IS ASLEEP.
CNCK
STILL STANDING.
WHY CAN'T I BREAK DOWN THE WALL?
SOMEONE ELSE IS HERE, KICKING!
KR-KRAK

ELEKTRA!
HELLO, MATT.
STILL HITTING THINGS?
WHAKK
IDIOTS!
RAGE ONLY TAKES YOU SO FAR.
YOU, TOO. YOU'RE STILL HITTING.
YOU TWO ARE THE SAME KIND OF ANGRY IDIOTS.
THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOUR ATTENTION IS TO HIT YOU.
NOW LOOK. THE WALL IS STILL THERE.
TRY AGAIN... BUT WITHOUT RAGE, WITHOUT ANGER. HIT THE WALL WITH KINDNESS.
BUT TEACHER, HOW?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. HOW CAN WE HIT KINDLY?
IT'S A PARADOX!

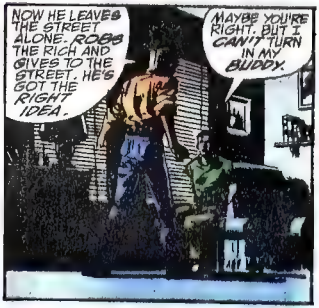

WAKK
OF COURSE IT'S A PARADOX, STUPID. THAT'S WHY IT'S THE TRUTH.
IF YOU MUST BE A FIGHTER, BE A BENEVOLENT FIGHTER.
A HUMANE FIGHTER.
DON'T FIGHT FROM RAGE. FIGHT FROM COMPASSION.
NOW BREAK DOWN THAT WALL.
WOMP
WACK
THE WALL, NOT EACH OTHER!
YOU TWO ARE HOPELESS!!

NO, DADDY. I WON'T BE A FIGHTER.
I WON'T.. I PROMISE..
Uh.
Oh.
A DREAM. I WAS LEARNING HOW TO FIGHT.
BUT MY FATHER... HE MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO!
AND THAT WOMAN... GOD, SHE'S SO...
NYLA?
GONE. I THINK SHE'S JEALOUS OF MY DREAMS.
AND THIS PLACE.. THE FIRST THING I'LL DO WITH MY FIGHT MONEY IS RENT HER A REAL APARTMENT.
SOME KIND OF ANSWERS IN THAT DREAM. BETTER WRITE IT DOWN BEFORE I FORGET IT.
REMINDS ME OF MARCUS FIGHTING WITH HIS DAD. HIS DAD TOLD HIM NOT TO FIGHT- TOO.
LAST THING THE JUDGE SAID BEFORE THEY KILLED HIM.
NOW MARCUS WANTS TO FIGHT. WANTS TO KILL. I CAN'T BLAME HIM.
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD PAY HIM A VISIT.


AND ELSEWHERE IN MANHATTAN'S HELL'S KITCHEN...
BUT MARCUS, I DIDN'T KILL YOUR DAD. I WOULDN'T KILL A JUDGE.
BUT YOU KNOW WHO DID!
LISTEN, EVEN IF I KNEW, I COULDN'T TELL YOU! I GOTTA STICK BY MY KIND!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? WE GOTTA WORK TOGETHER.
THEY WANT US TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.


THEY WANT THE ITALIANS TO HATE THE BLACKS AND THE BLACKS TO HATE THE KOREANS.
THEY WANT US TO KEEP HATING AND FIGHTING AND KILLING EACH OTHER OFF.
WHO'S THEY?

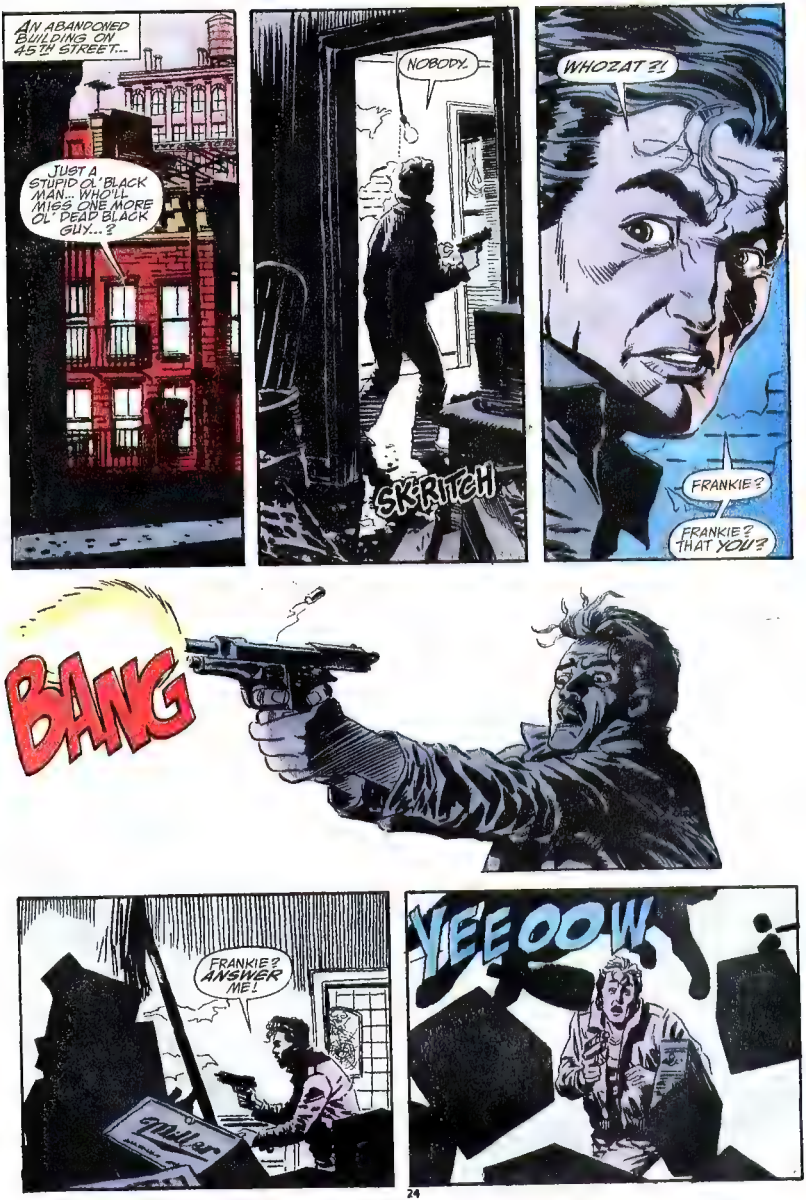
I DON'T KNOW... THE RICH... THE POWERFUL, I GUESS.
LOOK AT DAREDEVIL. HE USED TO FIGHT STREET CRIME.


NOW HE LEAVES THE STREET ALONE. ROBS THE RICH AND GIVES TO THE STREET. HE'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I CAN'T TURN IN MY BUDDY.

HE KILLED MY FATHER! I COULD KILL YOU!
I COULD KEEP THE HATE GOING RIGHT NOW, BY KILLING YOU!
C'MON, FRANKIE! TURN THE KILLER IN AND PROVE YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, ON THE SIDE OF THE STREET AGAINST THE RICH!

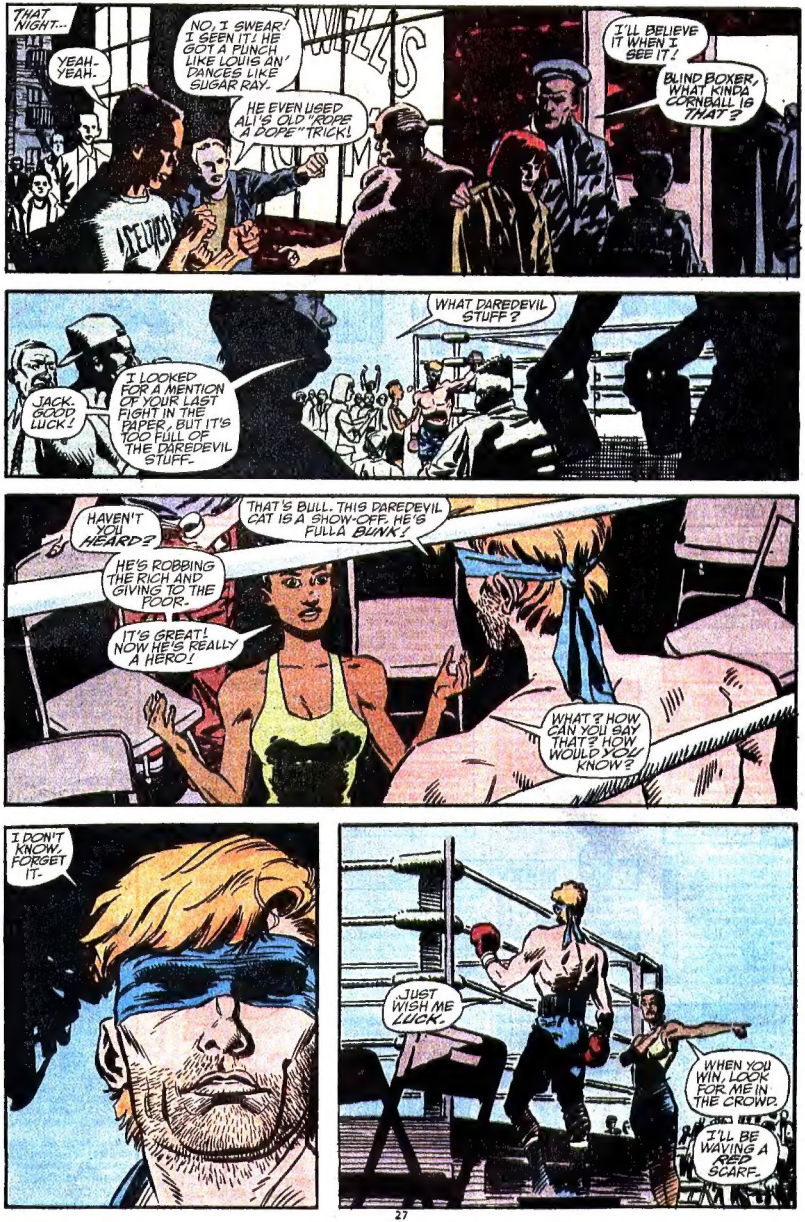
IT'S TIME WE FOUGHT THE REAL ENEMY!
I GUESS... I DON'T KNOW MARCUS, I'M CONFUSED...
TELL ME WHERE THE KILLER'S HIDING. NOW!

ACROSS TOWN...
iCLICK! HELLO? THIS IS FOGGY NELSON. I'M EITHER SLEEPING OR AT THE LAW LIBRARY...
I HATE ANSWERING MACHINES...
SOON...
FOGGY?
BEN! BEN ULRICH! BEEN AWHILE!
OH.
YUP. BUT I FIGURED YOU WERE THE MAN WHO MAY STILL BE IN TOUCH WITH MATT MURDOCK.
NO. WE HAVEN'T BEEN FRIENDS FOR A WHILE.
BUT FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK ABOUT MATT...
I'M WORKING ON HIS CASE RIGHT NOW.
A WHILE BACK, MATT'S LIFE WAS RUINED. UNPAID BILLS, BACK TAXES, ACCOUNTS SEIZED--ANYWAY, HE LOST HIS LICENSE TO PRACTICE LAW.
WELL, I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHO DID IT, BUT THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET-UP.
I'VE SINCE RECTIFIED WITH THE IRS, THE GOVERNMENT, BANKS, THE LAW BOARD...
NOW ALL I NEED IS MATT MURDOCK. YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
I MIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD ON MAKING MATT'S NAME LOOK GOOD AGAIN-
A BIT OF AN OBSESSION?
I GOT MY REASONS.

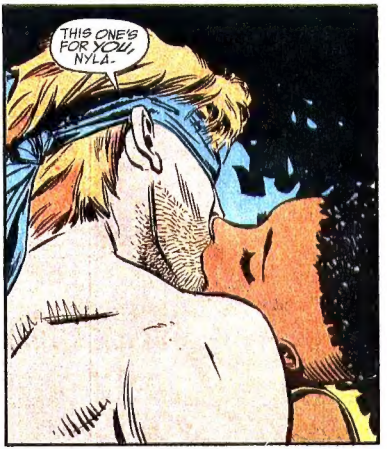

AN ABANDONED BUILDING ON 45TH STREET...
JUST A STUPID OL' BLACK MAN... WHO'LL MISS ONE MORE OL' DEAD BLACK GUY...?
NOBODY.
SKRITCH
WHOZAT?!
FRANKIE?
FRANKIE? THAT YOU?
BANG
FRANKIE? ANSWER ME!
Miller
YEEOOW

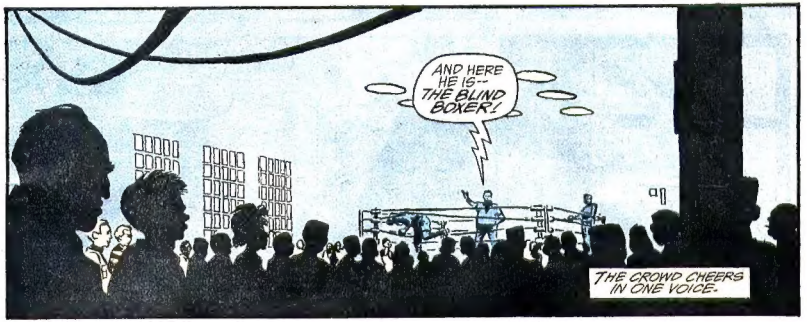
BANG
DIRTY OL' CAT. JUST A DIRTY OL' CAT.
YEEOOOW!!
HUH?
JUST A STUPID OL' BLACK MAN-- JUST A DIRTY OL' CAT...
WAM
JUST A SCUMMY PUNK NAMED NICK NOTHIN', WHO'LL MISS HIM?
NOBODY.
AGKK!
GHAGKK!
I DO THIS WITH COMPASSION, NICK NOBODY...

I FIGHT WITH KINDNESS.
I AM THE BLIND BOXER, THE HUMANE FIGHTER.
IT'S A LONG WAY TO DAYLIGHT, NICK NOBODY.
SOON, ELSEWHERE...
JUDGE KILLER
IS HE DEAD?
NAH. STILL BREATHIN'.
HE WAS MUMBLIN' SOMETHIN' BEFORE.
MURDER WEAPON
JUDGE KILLER
GUESS HE KILLED THAT JUDGE.
NYH!
BUT WHO CAUGHT HIM AN' LEFT HIM HERE?
FOLKS
WHO KNOWS.
BUT IT SURE WASN'T THE COPS!


THAT NIGHT...
YEAH-YEAH.
NO, I SWEAR! I SEEN IT! HE GOT A PUNCH LIKE LOUIS AN' DANCES LIKE SUGAR RAY.
HE EVEN USED ALI'S OLD "ROPE A DOPE" TRICK!
I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT!
BLIND BOXER, WHAT KINDA CORNBALL IS THAT?
JACK. GOOD LUCK!
I LOOKED FOR A MENTION OF YOUR LAST FIGHT IN THE PAPER, BUT IT'S TOO FULL OF THE DAREDEVIL STUFF.
WHAT DAREDEVIL STUFF?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
HE'S ROBBING THE RICH AND GIVING TO THE POOR.
IT'S GREAT! NOW HE'S REALLY A HERO!
THAT'S BULL. THIS DAREDEVIL CAT IS A SHOW-OFF. HE'S FULLA BUNK!
WHAT? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW. FORGET IT.
JUST WISH ME LUCK.
WHEN YOU WIN, LOOK FOR ME IN THE CROWD.
I'LL BE WAVING A RED SCARF.

SILLY. YOU KNOW I HAVE THESE BAD EYES.
I CAN BARELY SEE. I CAN'T TELL IF SOMETHING IS LIGHT OR DARK LET ALONE SEE COLOR.
BUT DON'T WORRY, I KNOW YOUR SMELL. I'LL FIND YOU.


THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, NYLA.


AND HERE HE IS-- THE BLIND BOXER!
THE CROWD CHEERS IN ONE VOICE.

THE ONLY ONE NOT WITH THEM REPEATS TWO SMALL WORDS IN ONE SMALL VOICE.
COLOR BLIND...
COLOR BLIND.

HE DOESN'T KNOW... HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT COLOR I AM.

AND ALL OVER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK, THE LATEST DAILY BUGLE HAS HIT THE STANDS...
MOST PEOPLE READ THE FRONT PAGE...
DAILY BUGLE
DAREDEVIL IS A ROBINHOOD
SEIN PULLS OUT
BUT A FEW FIND THE EDITORIAL BURIED IN THE BACK PAGES, A PIECE BY BEN URICH...
"IT'S EASY TO LOVE SOMEONE WHEN THEY'RE ON TOP."
"AND JUST AS EASY TO KNOCK DOWN A HERO."
"DAREDEVIL HAS BEEN NEW YORK'S PROTECTOR FOR MANY YEARS, AND THIS CITY SHOULD STAND BY HIM."
"CAN'T WE HAVE FAITH, THAT EVEN IF HE APPEARS TO HAVE TURNED THIEF, IT'S FOR SOME HEROIC REASON?"
HEY, LOOK UP THERE!
IT'S DARE-DEVIL!
YAY! WE'RE WITH YOU, DAREDEVIL!
WELCOME BACK!
WHAT? THEY'RE CHEERING ME? WHY?
I'M A THIEF! I'M NO HERO!
STUPID PEOPLE! DON'T YOU GET IT??
I'LL SHOW YOU I'M NO HERO!
TO BE CONTINUED!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: EDITOR—MICHAEL HEISLER: ASSISTANT EDITOR

C/O MARVEL COMICS—387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH—NEW YORK, NEW YORK—10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST!

Dear Ralph and Mike,

The recent issues of DAREDEVIL have been excellent (issues #274-281). In fact, Daredevil has become my favorite Marvel comic. The stories transcend the usual "superhero story." Of course we have a masked hero fighting various super beings like Mephisto and Ultron, but that isn't the major theme. Mephisto is a symbol of all evil, and we go deep into Matt Murdock's psyche and his motives for fighting.

The stories are also about how we humans treat each other and our own potential for good or evil. I don't know if I'm making much sense here. It isn't easy expressing yourself in a foreign language. Anyway, Ann, you're writing one terrific story. Daredevil is the only book where we can see other versions of Marvel's characters. Your versions of Ultron, the Inhumans, Mephisto and the Silver Surfer are nothing short of spectacular!

And I haven't forgotten about the two artists. John Romita, Jr. and Al Williamson are producing their best work ever. I especially like the way they are drawing Mephisto. Don't ever let the art team go away. This is the best DAREDEVIL since Frank Miller, and Marvel's best book right now.

Øyvind A. Holen
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Norway

Well, first off, Øyvind, we want to tell you that we think you did a fine job of expressing your thoughts in a foreign language. Second, as far as DAREDEVIL having different versions of Marvel characters, that's not exactly correct. You see, Marvel prides itself on having a coherent, consistent universe. (That's not to say that from time to time we don't goof.) The Mephisto and Ultron that appear in DAREDEVIL are the same characters that appear in other books. What is different is the interpretation of the characters by the writer and artist. By not limiting our creative people to superstrict guidelines we are able to get stories in which many different sides of more well-established characters can be shown, making them more well-rounded and interesting.

Dear Miss Nocenti and Mr. Romita,

My first encounter with Daredevil was the "Born Again" trade paperback, which I read just over two years ago. I was extremely impressed with Mr. Miller's work and immediately started buying DAREDEVIL every month. I was disappointed. I felt that after Frank Miller the storylines were dull and boring.

Recently, however, I realized that this was not the case. I had been expecting a typical comic book, with heroes and villains and fight scenes. I suddenly understood that this was not the direction of Daredevil under these storylines. Something else was happening. The stories were about one man struggling with his failures, losing his ambitions, his hopes, his dreams.

Once I found this I re-read through my entire collection (which dated back to the beginning of the Typhoid Mary saga). I found each issue better than the last, building up to a crescendo of brilliance. In each issue the development of the characters and the insight into Daredevil's thoughts has been incredible. Even the inclusion of such crossovers as "Inferno" and "Acts of Vengence" was seamless and served to compliment the ngoing story line rather than destroy it.

Matt Murdock was finally coming to terms with his failures and spoke of returning to Hell's Kitchen when Miss Nocenti played her masterstroke. He has skirmished with Mephisto before but never at this level. Having Daredevil fall into Hell is a fantastic idea. It is not a Hell of classical or biblical thought but a new subtle, psychological Hell. This is a Hell where instead of physical discomfort, it is the mind that is teased and tormented. These are probably the best stories I have ever read.

I must at this point congratulate Mr. Romita on his excellent art. When I first started reading I thought it was terrible. This was due to being raised on MacFarlane and Adams art. I now recognize the excellence of this art. The moody and shadowy penciling compliments the stories perfectly.

I look forward to the next issue.

Nick Elbin
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Lymm, Cheshire
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England

Dear Ann, John, Al and Ralph,

DAREDEVIL keeps inching its way up my list of "Can't-wait-till-the-next-issue-comes-out-gotta-read-it-first" comics. Issue #281 is no exception. From that amazing title ("Heaven is Knowing Who You Are" which I believe is true) through to that final page splash, this issue had more than the average share of thought provoking dialogue/situations/characterization. The idea that Heaven or Hell is not a place you visit or live in, but rather a state of being that each person chooses, is not really a new idea. But it's a good idea and I enjoyed seeing it presented so well in this issue of DAREDEVIL. I was disappointed to see so few letters of support in the letters page for the innovative ways that Ann is presenting Daredevil both as a hero and as an analogy or metaphor (or symbol?) for all of people-kind.

The artwork is just plain dynamic. It's beautiful the way John's and Al's work seems to mesh so well. In fact, it's the artwork that initially attracted me to this series. Fortunately, the story is keeping pace with the visuals and in places even surpassing them.

The lettering? I hardly notice it . . . which is the way it generally should be. The coloring has been nicely subdued . . . not overpowering. Good stuff.

John Dennis
78 Surrey Lane
Pontiac, MI 48055

Glad you like what's going on John. As for readers' support, check out the rest of the letters on this page and the last few pages.

Dear Ann,

Your present storyline brings home very loud and clear an important point: Daredevil belongs embodied in Matt Murdock and located in Hell's Kitchen.

This has not been the complete character that has been portrayed over the past several issues. The richness of the hero is derived from his ascension from the shadows of a crime-riddled, inner city neighborhood and from the limitations of his own physical handicap.

Certainly Daredevil's current bout with Mephisto symbolizes a struggle on a far deeper level with a much more formidable opponent—Evil Incarnate. Our champion is only half a hero in tights. The other half is a blind ex-attorney struggling to put his life and the lives of those around him in order. Both the hero and the man are blind—like Lady Justice. The two are one and Hell's Kitchen is their (His) battleground, courtroom and home.

I am grateful for our hero's sojourn away from Hell's Kitchen. The duel with Mephisto should strengthen Daredevil and prepare him for his return home. His meeting with the Silver Surfer brings together two kindred spirits. Much, then, stands to be gained from this departure from the DAREDEVIL milieu.

Most important, however, is the courage and imagination that characterizes your experiment with the Man Without Fear. Your willingness to take risks makes this title and its hero much more alive and dynamic. Your departure form the norm only underscores the strength of this character.

It's time now for him to return home strengthened.

Jan C. Childress
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Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Ann,

Issue #281 of DAREDEVIL was another interesting issue, if not a bit puzzling. Symbolism is fine when used as an underlying theme but using it as the main focus of the story is something that is beginning to wear thin in this title.

Number Nine, Karnak, and Gorgon all appeared in some form of undress and even the Silver Surfer made an appearance in his silvery nakedness whereas Daredevil faced his perils in full dress. What all of that means I don't know but I found it annoying enough to distract from the story. When I suggested that the Inhumans needed a little more exposure this *wasn't* what I had in mind.

Metaphorical symbolism aside, I have to love your style of writing. With lines like, "Then they met her. An angel with horns or devil with wings. Or human with both." how could I not enjoy this title?

Once the Number Nine/Inhuman storyline concludes I feel that we will see a return of the Matt Murdock persona. Readers clamoring for the return of comfortable, supportive cast such as Karen Page, Foggy Nelson, and even the Kingpin and Typhoid Mary may be getting more than they bargained for.

While I also look forward to Hornhead's return to his regular stomping grounds, I look back over your tenure on this title and have fond memories of tales of unexpected, epic proportion!

Charles S. Novinskie
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By now Charles, you can see that Daredevil has indeed returned to his old stomping grounds, but not in the way that anybody expected.

Hey, who is that guy in the Daredevil costume, anyway? And what's his connection to that big fat guy in the audience? Find out in one month as *Ann Nocenti, Lee Weeks,* and *Al Williamson* present "THE STUDENT!"